

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 SSO-00 /013 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7421

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10249

USIAC

FOR: IEA PAYEFF; STATE FOR SY, PA/ON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NONE

SUBJECT: SECURITY OF USIS OFFICER, DAVAO

REF: STATE 168052-C (NOTA); MANILA 10015-C (NOTAL

STATE 172954-C (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING ITEM APPEARED IN AP FILE DATELINE MANILA 0841 GMT
JULY 13.

"THE U.S. EMBASSY HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT MOSLEM
DISSIDENTS HAVE PLANS TO KIDNAP AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN
MINDANAO AS A PROTEST AGAINST THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT,
HARRISON SHAFFER OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY SAID TUESDAY.

"SHAFFER SAID HE WAS INFORMED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THE
THREAT BY U.S. EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICIALS IN MANILA.

"ANOTHER EMBASSY SOURCE SAID THE AMERICANS WERE ALERTED
FOR A POSSIBLE INCIDENT TIMED FOR JULY 4, CELEBRATED HERE
AS U.S.-PHILIPPINE FRIENDSHIP DAY. NOTHING HAPPENED.

"SHAFFER, WHO SERVED IN WASHINGTON AND IN NIGERIA BEFORE
COMING TO THE PHILIPPINES, IS THE ONLY AMERICAN AT A U.S.
INFORMATION SERVICE REGIONAL OFFICE IN DAVAO CITY IN EASTERN
MINDANAO, 600 MILES SOUTH OF MANILA. HE LIVES THERE WITH
HIS WIFE, WHO IS A CELLIST. JAPAN AND INDONESIA HAVE CONSULAR
OFFICES THERE. HE IS IN MANILA TO UNDERGO MINOR SURGERY,
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HARRISON SAID.

"SHAFFER SAID THE EMBASSY SUGGESTED THAT HE REQUEST
AUTHORITIES IN DAVAO TO SUPPLY HIM WITH A BODYGUARD."

2. SHAFFER, WHO NOW AT CLARK AFB HOSPITAL AWAITING MAJOR
SURGERY, CONFIRMS MAKING REMARKS REPORTED IN STORY TO AP'S
ZEITLIN, SUPPOSEDLY AS FRIEND TO FRIEND IN CONFIDENCE.

3. PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES ATTEMPTING KILL STORY IN PHILIPPINE
EDITION, BUT TOO LATE FOR JAPAN/KOREA EDITION. ARMED FORCES
RADIO WILL LIKEWISE NOT CARRY STORY IN PHILIPPINES. BELIEVE IT
UNLIKELY STORY WILL BE CARRIED PHILIPPINE PRESS BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE
EFFECTS ON TOURISM TO DAVAO.

4. BELIEVE IF QUERIED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SHOULD STATE THAT
OUR MISSIONS REGULARLY RECEIVE REPORTS FROM VARIETY OF SOURCES,
SOME VALID AND SOME SPECIOUS, CONCERNING POSSIBLE DANGER TO
LIFE OR SAFETY OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS. AS MATTER OF
COURSE, WE MUST TAKE ALL SUCH REPORTS SERIOUSLY UNTIL THEY
ARE PROVED OTHERWISE AND ADVISE PERSONNEL AFFECTED TO TAKE
APPROPRIATE SECURITY MEASURES. THAT WAS DONE IN THIS CASE.

5. MISSION CURRENTLY RE-ASSESSING SITUATION IN DAVAO TO TRY
ASCERTAIN POSSIBLE EFFECT OF PUBLICATION THIS INFORMATION ON
SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND WILL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD ABOVE
ITEM BE PUBLISHED HERE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, THREATS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA10249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760271-0907
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760760/aaaacakk.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY OF USIS OFFICER, DAVAO
TAGS: PINS, RP, US, (SHAFFER, HARRISON)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006